Our Marine Corps

Sgt Maj Donahue

27 August 2007

Agenda

- **A Historical Perspective**
- **USMC Culture, Values, and Customs**
- **Organization, Roles, and Missions**

"Marines are about the most peculiar breed of human beings I have ever witnessed. They treat their service as if it were some kind of cult, plastering their emblem on almost everything they own, making themselves up to look like insane fanatics with haircuts to ungentlemanly lengths, worshipping their Commandant almost as if he were a god, and making weird animal noises like a band of savages. They'll fight like rabid dogs at the drop of a hat, but have the manners of a little lamb, and their high spirits and sense of brotherhood set them apart. In fact, generally speaking, the United States Marines I've come in contact with are the most professional soldiers and the finest men I have ever had the pleasure to meet."

- Anonymous Canadian citizen

“The Marines I have seen around the world have the cleanest bodies, the filthiest minds, the highest morale, and the lowest morals of any group of animals I have ever seen..... Thank God for the United States Marine Corps!"

~ Eleanor Roosevelt

“The Army and the Navy are run like traditional military services. The Air Force is run like a corporation. But the Marine Corps is a religion."

- US Navy Admiral

…and then, how we see ourselves:

There are only two kinds of people that understand Marines: Marines and those who have met them in battle. Everyone else has a second-hand opinion.

Every Marine is, first and foremost, a rifleman. All other conditions are secondary.

The Marines are not a branch. We are a breed.

Some historical touchstones

- **10 November 1775: 2nd Continental Congress establishes the Marine Corps; birthplace is Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Some historical touchstones

"Be it resolved, that two battalions of Marines be raised consisting of one colonel, two lieutenant colonels, two majors and officers as usual in other regiments, that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken that no person be appointed to office or enlisted into said battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea."

- **Second Continental Congress**
10 November 1775

Some historical touchstones

- 10 November 1775: 2nd Continental Congress establishes the Marine Corps; birthplace is Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 1805: Presley O'Bannon defeats the Barbary Coast Pirates… "the shores of Tripoli…"
- 1847: Mexican War; storming the Castle Chapultepec… "the Halls of Montezuma…"
- 1859: Capture of John Brown at Harper's Ferry
- 1898-1934: Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion, Central America
- 1918: WWI, Belleau Wood… *Teufelhunden*
- 1918: Opha Mae Johnson

Some historical touchstones

- **1941-1945: Wake Island, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Tinian, Iwo Jima, Okinawa**

- **1947: First Civilian Marines**
- **1950-1955: Korean War; Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Chosin Reservoir**
- **1965-1971: Vietnam War**
- **1982-1989: Lebanon, Grenada, Panama**
- **2001- Present: Global War on Terrorism**
- **9 Jan 1988: 2ndLt Reynolds assigned to Company B, The Basic School**

So what's the big deal with history?..

- **Highlights the nation's reliance on USMC and why work excellence is so important.**
- **Outlines a tradition of success and high expectations for all Marines.**
- **Provides examples of USMC's amphibious and expeditionary mission**
- **Serves a common experience for all Marines… Marine Corps history is ours not to tarnish but to embellish**

Marine Corps Culture

"A way of life – shared attitudes, values, goals, traditions, behavior, and practices that characterize a group."

Influence on Marine Corps culture:

1. **Smallest Service**
2. **No elite units – all Marines are warfighte**
3. **Common heritage – every Marine a riflem**
4. **Every officer trained as an infantry platoo commander first**
5. **Rooted in common values and traditions illustrated by shared sense of history**

Marine Corps Culture

Marine Corps Leadership Principles

- **Know yourself and seek self-improvement.**
- **Be technically and tactically proficient.**
- **Develop a sense of responsibility among your subordinates**
- **Make sound and timely decisions.**
- **Set the example.**
- **Know your Marines and look out for their welfare.**
- **Keep your Marines informed.**
- **Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions.**
- **Ensure assigned tasks are understood, supervised, and accomplished.**
- **Train your Marines as a team.**
- **Employ your command in accordance with its capabilities.**

Marine Corps Leadership Traits

- **Dependability**
- **Bearing**
- **Courage**
- **Decisiveness**
- **Endurance**
- **Enthusiasm**
- **Initiative**
- **Integrity**
- **Judgment**
- **Justice**
- **Knowledge**
- **Tact**
- **Unselfishness**
- **Loyalty**

Marine Corps Culture

(fun with words)

Wall

Floor

Ceiling

Water Fountain

Window

Door

Clothes (“hat,” in particular)

Food

Bathroom

Car

Marine

Stairs/Stairwell

Kitchen

Bed

House

Shaving materials

Pens and Flashlights

Left and Right

Jail

Airplane

Marine Corps Culture
(not so lost in translation)

"Zero-dark-thirty I hit the silk after a firefight with COMUSHOUSECOM, came aboard, grabbed some joe, scrounged some chow, and took some grunt candy for my WIA brain housing group."

"Early this morning, after a disagreement with my wife, I went to work, drank some coffee and ate a pasty, and took Motrin for my headache."

"In order to uncluster our pros, you need to go VFR direct to the actual and give him the straight skinny."

"To resolve this situation we are in, you should talk to our supervisor and tell him the truth."

"We need to di-di to the dog and pony because it's boo-coo klicks away and I want to buzz the slopchute first, but Mickey's ticking and time is scosh."

"We must hurry to the ceremony because it is far from here and I would like to eat first, but time is running out."

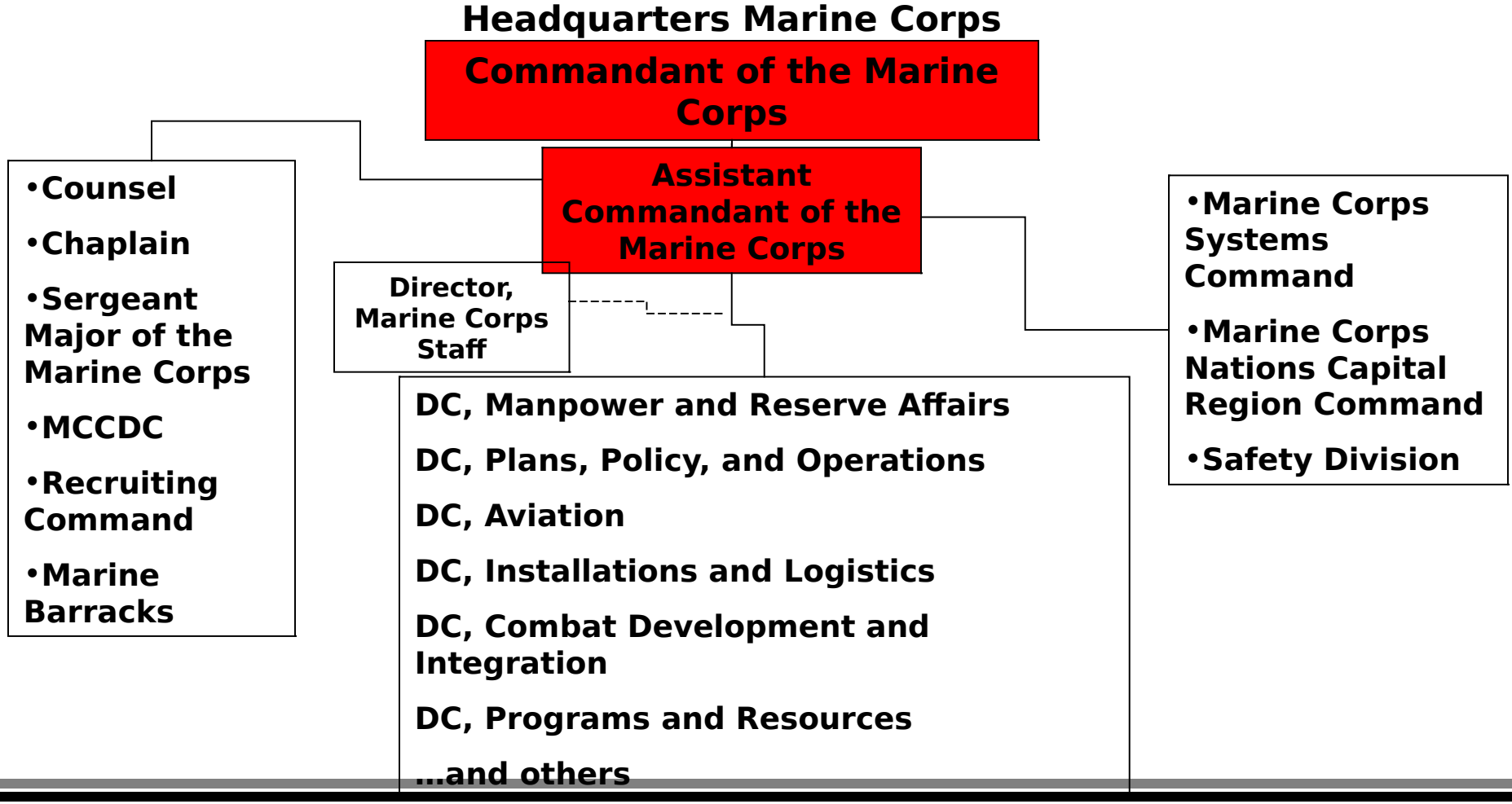
"Hey, you should survey that field scarf because I could go rapelling off that Irish pennant."

"Excuse me, you might consider returning that necktie, since it has a long thread hanging off the end."

Organization

"…to be the most ready when the nation is the least ready…."

Organization



Organization

Operating Forces

Marine Forces Pacific

Marine Forces Korea

I MEF and III MEF

Marine Forces Command

Marine Forces Europe

Marine Forces South

II MEF

Marine Forces Central Command

Organization

Marine Reserves

Marine Corps
Mobilization Command

Marine Forces Reserves

Marine Forces North

4th MarDiv

4th MAW

4th MLG

Organization

Supporting Establishment

- Marine Corps Recruiting Command
- Marine Corps Combat Development Command
- Marine Corps Logistics Command

Organization
(for combat)

The Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF)

Logistics Combat Element (LCE)

Ground Combat Element (GCE)	Aviation Combat Element (ACE)	Logistics Combat Element (GCE)

Organization
(for combat)

MAGTFery

GCE	+	ACE	+	LCE	=	CE
Battalion Landing Team		Composite Squadron		Combat Logistics Battalion		Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)
Regimental Landing Team		Marine Air Group		Combat Logistics Regiment		Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)
Marine Division		Marine Air Wing		Marine Logistics Group		Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)
Something		Something		Something		Special Purpose MAGTF

Roles and Missions

National Security Act of 1947:

- **Seize and defend advance naval bases**
- **Development of amphibious doctrine, tactics, and equipment**
- **National force in readiness**
- **Security of naval shore installations**
- **Ships detachments**
- **State Department Guards**
- **White House Duties**
- **As directed by the President**

Roles and Missions

Operational Maneuver from the Sea:

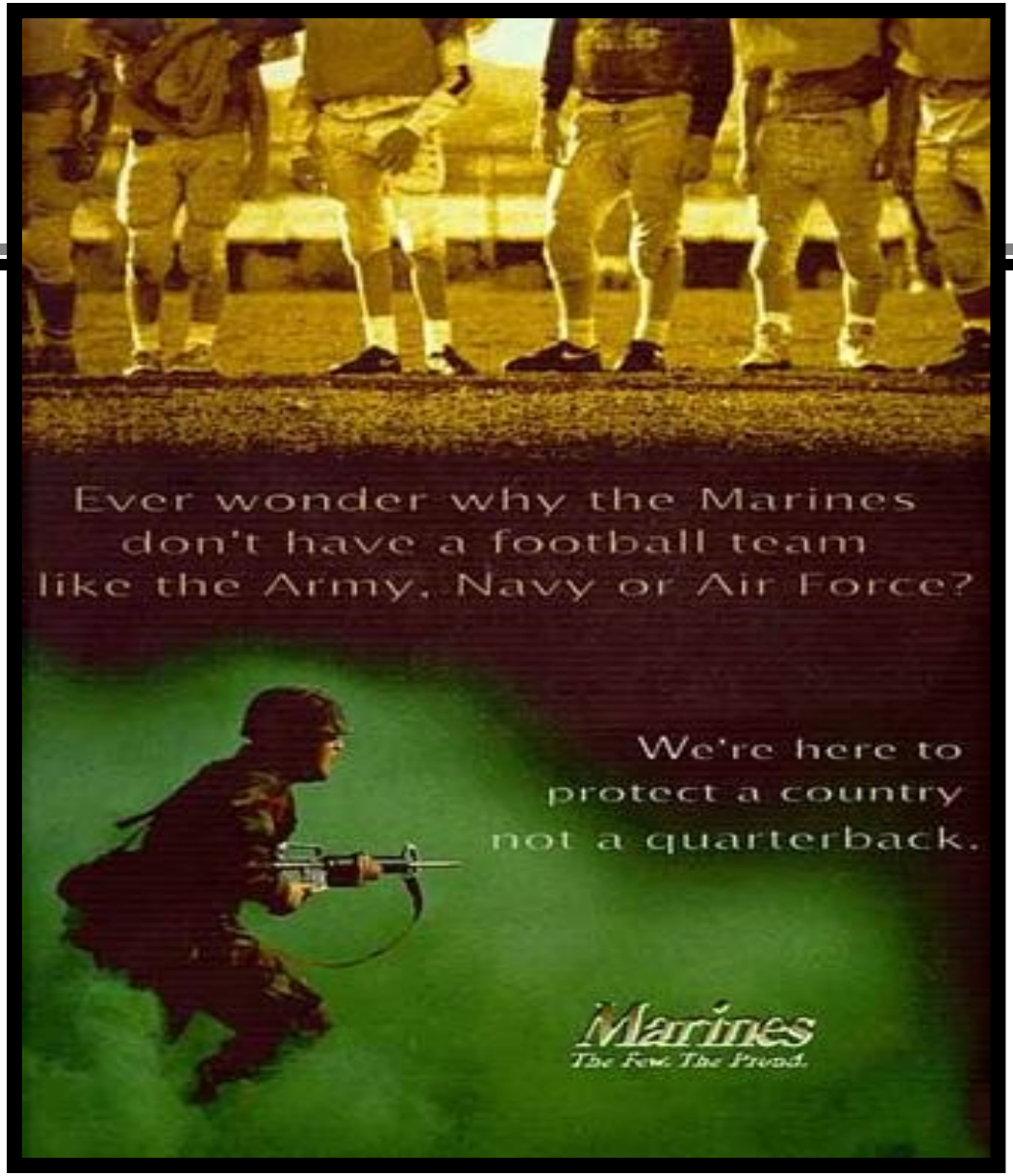
- **Ship-to-Objective Maneuver**
- **Seabasing**
- **Sustained Operations Ashore**
- **Other Expeditionary Operations**

Agility

Readiness

Lethality

Questions ?


Ever wonder why the Marines don't have a football team like the Army, Navy or Air Force?
We're here to protect a country not a quarterback.
Marines
The Few. The Proud.

EVALUATION FORM